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MARK T. GAFFNEY, *President*

TINA ABBOTT, *Secretary-Treasurer*

September 19, 2006

TO: Members of the Michigan House of Representatives
FROM: Mark Gaffney, President
RE: Support for House Bill 6456

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MG", written over the "FROM:" line.

The Michigan State AFL-CIO supports House Bill 6456, which would create a state video service authorization system to replace the current system of local franchising.

We support this bill because we believe that competition in cable TV service is long overdue in Michigan. The current system of having a virtually unregulated monopoly has led to poor service and higher prices for most consumers.

Only by bringing in true competition for cable TV services can we protect the interests of the consumer. We have seen information that has estimated that Michigan families could save up to 25% per month on their cable TV bills by instituting competition in Michigan.

This bill would also help our local economies as hundreds of new jobs are created in Michigan as a result of the telephone companies expanding into cable TV services. During this time of high unemployment, the House of Representatives should not pass up this opportunity to create jobs in Michigan.

For all of these reasons we ask that you vote "yes" on House Bill 6456.

Thank you.

MTG:lc/opeiu459aflcio